



REMARKS

A. Applicant has amended allowed original Claim 5 to correct a syntax error.

Accordingly, this claim has not been changed in any substantive way, and thus remains allowed.

B. Original Claim 1 has been cancelled and replaced with new Claim 6. Claims 2-4, inclusive, originally dependant upon original Claim 1, have been amended to change their dependency to new Claim 6.

C.1. The Invention - Preliminary discussion of the action on the merits, it is first helpful to focus upon the critical features of the invention, which differentiate the claimed subject matter from the prior art. In the instant invention, the open-air, outdoor wash station is indeed unique in that it is designed for recovery of gray water, for the later treatment of the contaminants contained therein in a waste water treatment facility, so as to permit the safe discharge thereof. As with all gray water treatment facilities, the capacity of these systems would be overwhelmed if run-off from storm drains were also funneled, along with the gray water discharge from an open-air wash station, into these facilities. Accordingly, in the typical open-air wash station, such as disclosed in the prior art, the gray water discharge from a wash station is recycled or stored within a holding tank for later safe disposal.

In the instant invention, this isolation of the gray water discharge from rain water run off, in an open-air wash station, is achieved by means of a waste water discharge valve below the drain in the wash deck, which is normally biased in the closed position. This waste discharge control valve remains in the closed position until hydraulically activated with pressure generated from a pressure reduction valve, associated with the feed stream for the source of wash water.

Thus, once wash water begins to flow through the pressure reduction valve of the feed stream, the energy from the pressure reduction valve actuates a hydraulically operated waste water discharge valve. Conversely, when the wash water ceases to flow through the pressure reduction valve, the hydraulic pressure is reduced and the waste stream control valve is allowed to close. Thus, the energy created within the pressure reduction valve, by the wash water feed, is diverted and used to control the release of gray water discharge from the drain, below the wash deck, into the waste water treatment facility. In one of the preferred embodiments of this invention, an interceptor drain is also used in combination with the above, to separate particulates and sludge from the gray water before it is discharged into a waste water treatment facility. Accordingly, no separate electrical connections or pumps or other mechanical contrivances are required to control the discharge of gray water into a treatment facility.

C.2. The Rejection – The Examiner has rejected original Claim 1, under 35 USC 103, as unpatentable over *Krenzel* (US 6,655,395) or *Rasmussen* (US 5,597,001) in view of *Vincent* (US 4,882,792). The Examiner has relied upon the primary art for their disclosure of “pump drives” mechanically coupled to a waste steam control valve. The Examiner, however, concedes that neither of these primary references teach or suggest the use of a hydraulically actuated waste control valve.

At the outset, it is noted and emphasized that *Krenzel* is directed to a “closed loop” pressure washer system for use in conjunction in open air facility. Accordingly, the waste water in the *Krenzel* system is contained, and/or recycled within his system, without discharged into a storm drain or into a gray water processing facility for neutralization and/or removal of contaminants. Accordingly, *Krenzel* is not concerned with the isolation of gray water from rain

water in an open-air, outdoor wash station, which ultimately drains the gray water into a waste water treatment facility.

Similarly, the *Rasmussen* is directed to a portable wash station which contains the gray water within the wash station, and recycle the gray water within the station for reuse in subsequent wash cycles. Thus, the waste water in *Rasmussen*, not unlike the waste water in the *Krenzel* system, is contained, and/or recycled within his system, without discharged into a storm drain, or into a gray water treatment facility for neutralization and/or removal of contaminants. Accordingly, *Rasmussen* is not concerned with the isolation of gray water from rain water in an open-air, outdoor wash station, which ultimately drains or discharges the gray water into a waste water treatment facility.

The Examiner relies upon the secondary art, *Vincent*, to supplement the foregoing acknowledged deficiencies in the primary references. More specifically, the Examiner relies upon *Vincent* for his disclosure of an automatic hydraulic valve for use within an aircraft toilet tank flushing system. Within the context of the *Vincent* disclosure, a hydraulic timing circuit is provided to inject flushing fluid into a toilet holding tank, shortly after the discharge valve in the holding tank is opened. According to *Vincent*, a flow regulator is provided, in line to the rinse valve; and, in the preferred mode, a pressure reducer is also provided in-line to the timing circuit for the drain control valve, Col 2, Lines 62-66. The drain control valve of the *Vincent* system is biased in the open position, so that when the system is pressurized, the drain control valve remains open thereby allowing draining of the holding tank.

As is clear, the *Vincent* system does contemplate the hydraulic activation of the drain control valve. Quite the contrary, the bias upon the valve is opposite to the bias on the valve of Applicant's assembly – the Applicant's waste water control valve being biased in the closed

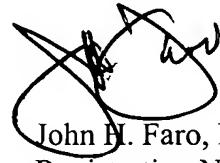
position. Thus, even if it were proper to combine the teachings of *Vincent* with the primary references, Applicant's invention, as now claimed, would still not be attained. Accordingly, the combination of the disclosure of *Vincent* with the primary art does nothing to remove the basic inadequacies in the disclosures of the primary references.



SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

Allowed Claim 5 has not been modified in any substantive way by the amendment offered herein. Thus, Claim 5 remains allowable. In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicant's claims 2-4 & 6 are also now clearly patentable as not being taught or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection under 35 USC 103, should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



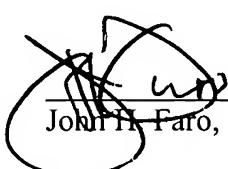
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the foregoing *Response To Non-Final Rejection* has been forwarded to the United States Patent & Trademark Office by *Express Mail Certificate No. EQ357190945US* this 10th day of January, 2007.



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